

H.R. 100 will lessen economic and legal burdens on military personnel

By Rob Simmons
Connecticut Congressman,
2nd District

Dear Friends:

I was pleased when President Bush signed H.R. 100, the "Service Members Civil Relief Act of 2003," into law last December. I was an original co-sponsor of the legislation that will help lessen the economic and legal burdens on military personnel called to active duty status in Operation Iraqi Freedom. H.R. 100 provides temporary financial and civil relief to the men and women who serve on the front lines of terrorism. Being deployed often means an individual will take a pay cut. This impacts the service member's family. H.R. 100 will ease the stress endured by these patriotic families.

The legislation provides service members with an automatic 90-day stay in civil proceedings. If an additional stay is later requested but denied, the court will be required to appoint a counsel to protect the service member's rights while he or she remains on active duty. A number of other important provisions are in H.R. 100. It will

- Expand current law that protects service members and their families from eviction from housing while on active duty due to nonpayment of rents that are \$1,200 per month or less. This protection would be significantly updated to meet today's higher cost of living (covering housing leases up to \$2,400 per month) and then adjusted annually to account for inflation.

- Provide a service member who receives permanent change of station orders, or who is deployed to a new location for 90 days or more, the right to terminate a housing lease.

- Update life insurance protections provided to activated Guard and reserve members by increasing from \$10,000 to \$250,000 the maximum policy coverage that the federal government will protect from default for nonpayment while on active duty.

- Protect service members from a form of double taxation that can occur when they have a spouse who works and is taxed in a state other than the state in which they maintain their permanent legal residence. H.R. 100 will prevent states from using the income earned by a service member in determining the

spouse's tax rate when they do not maintain their permanent legal residence in that state.

Military families make sacrifices as do the men and women on active duty. This legislation will ease some of the pressure that is felt all around in their family member's absence.

Sincerely,
Rob Simmons
Member of Congress
Second District, Connecticut



Congressman Rob Simmons

CHAMBER of COMMERCE

OF EASTERN CONNECTICUT, INC.

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